Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 08643 111032Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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----------077917 111113Z /10
P 110859Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 259

S E C R E T TEHRAN 8643

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, IR, PEPR
SUBJ: TOUFANIAN'S VIEWS OF IRANIAN SITUATION

1. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION ON ANOTHER MATTER, VMOW GENERAL TOUFANIAN INFORMED POL/MIL COUNSELOR OF HIS STRONG SUPPORT OF DECLARATION OF MARTIAL LAW. TOUFANIAN REPORTED HE AND SMALL NUMBER OF OTHER GENERALS HAD MET WITH SHAH NIGHT BEFORE CABINET DECISION TO DECLARE MARTIAL LAW. THEY HAD UNANIMOUSLY INFORMED HIM OF THEIR VIEW THAT MARTIAL LAW WAS ESSENTIAL TO MEET CLEAR DANGER FROM "COMMUNISTS." SHAH, ACCORDING TO TOUFANIAN, OPPOSED DECLARATION OF MARTIAL LAW, BUT HAD AGREED TO PASS ON FINAL DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY TO CABINET FOLLOWING DAY.

2. TOUFANIAN THEN MOVED INTO LONG DESCRIPTION OF TIGHT DESCIPLINE AND CAREFUL ORGANIZATION OF HARD CORE OPPOSITION FORCES. HE BELIEVED MULLAHS WERE INCAPABLE OF PLANNING AND LEADING ACTIVITIES SUCH AS
THOSE LEADING TO MARTIAL LAW
DECLARATION. HE WAS CONVINCED OPPOSITION LEADERSHIP WAS ENTIRELY COMMUNIST.
SULLIVAN

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